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# LESTRANGE'S NARRATIVE OF THE PLOT.

Set Forth for the

EDIFICATION

Of His Majesties

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XUM

# *L'ESTRANGE'S* NARRATIVE, &c.

IN This Age of *Narratives*, We ſhould do with our *Books*, methinks, as *Vittlers* do with their *Ord'naries*; every Authour hang up a *Table* at's Door, and ſay, *Here you may have a very good* Narrative, *for* Threepence, *a* Groat, *or* Sixpence, *or* Higher *if you pleaſe*. For we have 'em of all Sorts and Sizes: The only Danger is, the Popping of *Catt* and *Dogs Fleſh* upon us, for *Conv*, and *Veniſon*. For take 'em one with another, at the *Common* rate of *Narratives*, there's hardly *One* of *Five* that will paſſe *Muſter*. But *what is a NARRATIVE*? you'l ſay.

A *Narrative* is a *Relation* of ſomething that may be *ſeen*, *felt*, *heard*, or *underſtood*: Or otherwiſe; It is a *Relation* of ſomething that *Cannot* be *either ſeen*, *felt*, *heard*, or *underſtood*: For we have Our *Narratives* of things *Viſible* and *Inviſible*; *Poſſible* and *Impoſſible*; *True* and *Falſe*: Our *Narratives* of *Fact*, and our *Narratives* of *Imagination*. In One word: There was never any thing *Said*, *Done*, or *Thought* of, Since the Creation; nor ſo much as the *Fanſy* of any thing, tho' it was *never Said*, *Done*, or *Thought of*, but it will Bear a *Narrative*. So that the only point will be, out of This Infinite *Diverſity* of *Narratives*, Which is *the Narrative here in queſtion*.

NOW the *Narrative here in queſtion*, is the *Narrative* of The *PLOT*; but then there will ariſe Another Queſtion; Of *WHAT Plot*? For there are as many ſorts of *Plots* as there are of *Narratives*. There are *Plots* of *Paſſion*, and *Plots* of *Intereſt*; *Plots General* and *Particular*; *Publick* and *Private*; *Forreign* and *Domeſtique*; *Eccleſiaſticall* and *Civill*: There are *Plots* to *Undermine Governments*, and *Plots* to *Support* them; *Plots Simple*,

and *Counter Plots*; *Plots* to *make Plots*; and *Plots* to *Spoil Plots*; *Plots* to give *Credit* to *Sham-Plots*; and *Plots* again to *Baffle*, and *Discountenance Reall Ones*: *Plots Jesuiticall*, and *Phanatique*; *Plots Great* and *Small*; *High* and *Low*; In short, There is not any thing under the Sun, that may serve us either for *Pleasure*, or *Convenience*, but we have a *Plot* upon't: And the *Master-Plot* of *all*, is the *Plot* how to get the *Money* out of *One* Pocket into *Another*; as is well Observ'd by one of the Antients. For what is it that sets all Trades and Professions a work, Nay and all wickedneſse too; As *Murther*, *Calumny*, *Oppression*, *Perjury*, *Subornation*, *Corruption*, &c. But a *Plot* upon *Mony*?

NOW to come to my point. This Discourse is not a *Wild* and *Rambling Narrative* of some *Indefinite Plot*, that no body knows *what* to *make* of, or *where* to *find* it: But it is a *Narrative* (by way of *Excellence*) of *THE Plot*: that is to say, the *Capitall* and *Hellish Plot* which is *now* in *Agitation*, for the Destruction of Our *Prince*, *Religion* and *Government*, to the Horrour and Amazement of all the *Reformed Catholiques* in *Christendom*. I call them *Reformed Catholiques*, rather then *Protestants*, because I take the *Catholique* to be the *Antienter Family* of the *Two*: The *Denomination* being used in the *Primitive Church*; and not only to denote a *Generality*, or *Universality* of *Profession*: but also to *Distinguish Orthodox*, and *Obedient Christians*, from *Schismatiques*, and *Heretiques*. 'Tis cast in my Dish I know, as a *Reproach*, that I will not own my self to be a *Protestant*. Now so far as *Protestant* is a *Catholique*, or as the *Church* of *England* is *That* which *They* call *Protestant*, 'tis all one to me, whether I passe for a *Reformed Catholique*, a *Church of England-man*, or a *Protestant*. But when *Heresie*, and *Schism* comes to shelter it self under the Cover of *Protestantism*, (which is but too common a Case) I have no Ambition to be accounted any of *those Protestants*. So that my Crime is only that I am *a Church-of-England-Protestant*. But to return to my Theme.

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LET the Reader take notice, that as these Papers are only a *Narrative* of *that Plot* which is notoriously known, and distinguished from *all other Plots*, by the *Emphasis* of *THE Plot*: So it is *L'Estrange's Narrative* of *That Plot*; from whom no more Light can reasonably be expected then what arises out of matters within the Compasse of His Observation. He does not pretend, either directly, or indirectly, to have been *Entrusted* by any of the *Priests*, or *Jesuits*; Or to have been *present* at any of their Bloody and Desperate *Consults*; or *Privy* to any of their *Letters*, *Messages*, or *Commissions*: So that *We* can say *nothing at all* to the *Particulars* that have been given in by the *Kings Witnesses*: Or if we *Could*, the doing of it would signify no more then the holding of a *Candle* to the *Sun*: For whoever carefully *peruses Their Writings* and *Depositions*, *compares* their *Testimonies*; and *yet doubts* of the *Plot*, is little better, certainly, then Seal'd up under the spirit of *Blindness*, and *Delusion*. Let no body therefore expect from *These Sheets*, any *Repetition* of what the *Kings Evidences* have *Delivered*, and *Deposed* with so much Solemnity *already*; but rather repair to the *Memorialls* that they have committed to the *Publique*, which are *many*, and *Copious*, for a *Full*, and *Finall Satisfaction*. And in the mean time I shall apply my self to the making out of the *Plot here in Question*, my own way, (which, in strictnesse of speaking is not so properly a *Plot*, as an *Intrigue*.)

THE *Difference* betwixt a *Plot*, and an *Intrigue*, I take to be *This*; a *Plot* may be *Solitary*, as when a man contrives or casts about with himself how to get a *Dinner*, (for the purpose) an *Office*, a *Pension*, &c. He brings his Ends about by his *Own Wits*, as by *Cogging*, *Wheedling*, *Hectoring*, *Swearing*, *Lying*, or the like, as best makes for his purpose; but an *Intrigue* is always *Social*, and menag'd by *Intelligence* and *Confederacy*; So that it seems to be a kinde of a *Plot* with *Complices*, and yet it is not absolutely *That* neither. For the *Critiques* will have a *Plot*

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to import only a *General Resolation*, or *Agreement* upon *some Common End*; and an *Intrigue* to signifie a Certain *Artifice*, or *Myftery* in the *manner* of bringing it about. Of *Intrigues*, some are *direct Conspiracies*; as where a *Designe* is *Govern'd* by the *Contrivance*, *Advice*, and *Consent*; and *Improved* to the *Common Advantage* and *Behoof* of all the *Parties* therein *concern'd*. Of *This Kinde*, were the *late Intrigues* of the *Fanatiques* against the *Government*; where, as they *all contributed* to the *Ruine* of the *Publique*, so did they *all*, in some measure, *Partake* of the *Quarry*. There are *Other Intrigues* which are not so much a *Formal Confederacy* as a *Blinde Co-operation* of *several Parties*, toward the gaining of such or such an *End*, by working upon the *Passions* and *Weaknesses* of one another, without ever *Concerting* the matter betwixt them: and This is the Quality of the *Plot* whereof I am now about to Treat.

WE have been told abundantly of the *Popish Plot*, The *Booksellers Ware houses* are *Cram'd*, and there *Stalls charg'd* with the *Memorials* of it; All our *Courts of Justice*, and *Journals* of *State* bear witness to it. It has set all *Tongues* and *Pens* agoing; and all *Christendom Rings* of it; So that since nothing can be added to what is allready delivered upon This *Single Subject*, my business will be only to take *up* the Story where the *great Evidences* of the *Truth* of it have been pleased to let it *fall*.

AFTER a Nice and Particular Deduction of the *mayn Plot*, they do unanimously Close upon *This Assertion*; that it was a *Jesuiticall Influence* that *Ruin'd* the *Late King*, and *Irritated* the *Faction*: and that it is a *Popish Ferment* still at This day, that puts all the *Schisms* into *motion*. And for Proof thereof, *Doct r Oates* refers us to the Instance of the *Four Jesuits*, and the *Dominican* that mingled with the *Fifth Monarchy men*, for the *Burning* of *London*; (*Deposition* 3 t.) And to the Care that was taken for Tampering *Scotland* into a *Rebellion* as appears in several *Other Parts* of his *Depositions*. The *Dr.* having made

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it out upon *Oath* that the *Papists* make use of the *Fanatiques* to compass their *Own Ends* upon the *Government*; So soon as he has done *This*, he gives over the poynt. It must be *My part* now, to *Tack* my *own Observations* to the *Doctors*; and, by shewing, on the *Other hand*, what Advantages the *Schismatiques* make likewise of the *Papists*, for the Compassing of *Their Ends*, to lay open the *Effects* of so *dangerous* a *Complication*. *This Addition* we must take for granted would have been supply'd by the *Dr. himself*, both as a *Loyall Subject* to his *Prince*, and as a *True Son* of the *Establisht Church*, if matters of greater Moment had not taken him off at Mid-way: So that in Truth, This is rather a *Continuation* of the *Drs. Narrative*, then a *Composition* of my *own*. We are not to imagine that These Interests are *Ty'd up* by any Instrument of *Compact*, or *Covenant*, to *Joyn* in a *League Offensive* against the *Government*; but our mischief arises from a *Resemblance* of their *Principles* and not from any *Correspondence* of *Understanding* betwixt them. And yet while they seem to be *blowing up* and *Countermining one another*, they do really destroy *Us*; and it is the *Church* in the *Middle* that *Suffers* by the *Distemper* of the *Two Extremes*.

NOW though I cannot allow it upon any *Terms* that they *help one another* by *Consent*; nothing can be plainer yet then that while they *play*, *each* of them *their Own Game*, the *One* still *leads* into the *Others hand*. If *Popery Influences Schism*, *That Schism* Slides as naturally into *Popery*, as *Motion* from *One* place of *Rest* tends to *another*. There's the *Principle* espoused *allready*, and the *Rest* is only the Changing of the *Name*; The very *Unfixing* of a man is *half* the work done *allready*; for he is so far advanc'd upon his way toward a *new Settlement*. It is a thing worthy of Note, the *different manner* of dealing with the Church of *Rome*, betwixt the *Episcopall Clergy*, and the *Non Conformist*; The *Former* proceed by Dint of *Argument*, the *Other* only by *Opprobrious* Clamour, and *Reviling*; and for

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*ante fair Blow* at the *Pope*, they make a *hundred Rude ones* at the *Bishops*; and (which is yet a *fouler Scandal*) the most *Eminent*, and *Venerable Champions* that ever put Pen to Paper in the *Defence* of the *Reformed Communion*, have been the Persons which they have still singled out for the Subject of their *Exemplary Cruelty*, and *Rigor*. which shews that their (*Pretended*) *Quarrell* is to the *Name* rather then to the *Opinion*. I call it a *Pretended* one: For if they Quarrell in *Earnest* with the *Name* of *Popery*, they fall foul upon the *Best Friend* they have in the *World*: For it is *That single Pretext* that *Supports* their *Cause*. It is observable also on the Other side; that notwithstanding all their *Fierce* and *Virulent Exclamations* against *Priests* and *Jesuits*, the Church of *Rome* does not vouchsafe them so much as one syllable in Return; and the Reason is This; The *Conventicles* are doing the *Papists business* to their *hands*; and the *Enlarging* of the *Schism* is the readyest way imaginable for the *bringing in* of *Popery*: So that it is but *Commuting* a *Real Service* for a little *Dirty Language*.

BUT is it *True* then, that the *Popish Emissaryes* are so *busy*, and bear so great a *sway* among Our *Dissenters*? Yes (says Dr. *Oates* in his *Dedicatory* to the King) *They were the First Authours and Contrivers of the Late Unnatural War; and of his Late Majestyes Unspeakable Sufferings and Barbarous Usage. It was These* (says the *Dr.*) *that brought him to his end*, &c. And again, *They were in most, if not all the Councells that Contriv'd his Ruine. Two Jesuits* (*Simmons* and *Compton*) *were to pay the* Thousand Pound *promised to the Discoverer of the King after the Battle of* Worcester; *and* Milton *was a Known Frequenter of a* Popish Club; Lambert *a* Papist *of above Thirty years standing. What promises* (says the *Dr.* again) *did they make to* Cromwell *after his Majestyes Escape, to perswade the* French King *for Our Sovereigns* Banishment *out of* France?

AND

AND is not This now as clear an Evidence as a body would wish, to prove the *Industry*, the *Power*, and the *Malice of That Restlesse Party*; and to shew how they were *In* at *all Destructive Plots* and *Councells*? Was it not a strange zeal too, that when *Cromwell* was *Master* of the *Three Kingdoms*, and had so great an *Interest* at *Stake*; the *King* might have *Scap'd* yet for want of a *Price* upon his *Head*, if Father *Simmons* and *Compton* had not engaged for the *Thousand pound Reward* that was promised to Him that would deliver him up? Nay they were fain to Quicken *Cromwell Himself*, to get the *King Banisht* out of *France*. Which shews *First*, that the *Papists* trusted more to their *Power* with *Cromwell*, though a *Schismatique*, then to their *Power* with the *French King*, tho' a *Roman Catholique*. And *Secondly*, That they thought the *French King* would do more for a *Schisme*, then for the *Holy Church it self*: Which Implies a High Degree of *Mutuall Confidence* betwixt *Their Priests* and *Our Dissenters*.

IT is a Common Objection in This Case, that the *Dr.* is too *young* to speak many of these things upon *Knowledge*; and that it would have been well, if he had produced some *Historicall Authority* in *Confirmation* of the Reports, that *Lambert* was a *Papist*, and *Milton* a *Frequenter of a Popish Club*: And so in other like Cases. This is a doubt easily Resolved, for the thing it *self* being a *Privacy* in *its own Nature*, It was only *Proper* for the *Registries* of the *Society*, and not of a quality to be Inserted into Our *Publique Annals*. The *Dr.* tells us Further, (*Pag.* 29.) that *Father* Moor *and* Brown *were sent into* Scotland, *with Instructions to carry themselves like* Non conformist Ministers, *and to Preach to the* Disaffected Scots, *&c.* He tells us likewise (*Pag.* 67.) of *Seditious Preachers*, and *Catechists*, *set up*, *sent out*, *maintained*, *and directed what to Preach in their Own*, *or Other Private Conventicles*, *and Field meetings*, &c. Now *This*, I am told, is no Proof of the thing *Done*; but only of a *Proposition* and Design for

the doing of it. But yet we find in the *Drs.* Reflexions upon the Late Times, that the thing was there *really done*; and *Pag.* 8. that *Blundel* did *actually* teach *Treason* in severall places of *London*.

NOW if it be *True*, (As who dares *question* what the *Dr. Averrs*?) that the *Papists* managed the *Separatists* in the late War; and that all Our Miseries proceeded from the Influence of *Their Councells*; and that they are at This day, as *Active*, and as *Powerfull* as *ever*: It follows, that the *Danger* is as great *Now*, as *ever* it *was*; and that there is no security for This Nation, so long as the *Agents* for *Popery* have *This Retreat*. We should never have known that the *Papists* had had so great a hand in Our *late Broils*; and in the *Counsell*, and *Execution* of the *Murther* of the *Late King*, if Dr *Oates* had not *Discover'd* it. For the *Late King himself* knew *nothing* of it and all the *Memorialls* we have of those Times, even from the most *Popular Writers*, are wholly *Silent* in it, in such sort as we find it, Here to be represented. There was a Seditious Clamour, I remember, against *an Army of Papists*, (as they call'd them,) that were on the *Kings side*; but not One word of a *Papist* that was to be found among the *Schismatiques*, in their *Conventicles*. Nor should I readily believe the Story at *large*, as it is now *Reported*, if any man but Dr. *Oates* had said it. I have run through the *List* of the *Regicides* I have had Opportunities of knowing the *Principal men* of the *Party* and tracing all their *Committees*; and I cannot say that I found any *one man* upon *That Roll*, whom I so much as *suspected* for a *Papist*. So long as the work went Smoothly on, they call'd themselves (I remember) a *Covenanting*, a *Fasting* and a *Praying People*: But so soon as ever the *Wind Turn'd*, the *Godly Party* was presently *Transform'd*; and those that I took before for *Dissenting Protestants*, are now made appear to have been, the greater Part of them, *Priests*, and *Jesuits*. It seems to be somewhat Unequally Divided, that the *Schismatiques*

*tiques* should have the *Benefit*, and the *Papists* Support all the *Scandall* of the *Rebellion*; Would it not be better to let them fairly share the *Profit* and the *Losse*, betwixt them? And That's the Drs. *sense too*; for he does not deny but that the *Separatists Acted Their Parts* also: tho' only as men *Imposed* upon, and *Outwitted*, and under the *Guidance*, and *Direction* of the *Papists*.

I shall now Appeal to any man that has either *Seen*, or *diligently read* the Transactions of *Those Times*, whether or no he could ever have imagined that such a world of *Priests*, and *Papists* had worm'd themselves into the *Councells* and *Congregations* of *That Faction*, as the *Dr.* now Assures us there did. And what was the business, but *This*? The *Papists* carry'd the matter so *Close*, and lookt so like *Schismatiques*, that it was morally Impossible to discern the *One* from the *Other*, Now upon the Admission of *the same Mixture*, and *Danger*, at present, and *the same difficulty* likewise of *distinguishing* a *Disguised Papist* from an *Outlying Protestant*; we are lost unless we absolutely *Clear* those *Kennells*, since there is no *Purging* of them. And the means of doing it, is *Fair*, *Honest*, and *Obvious*; and I would say, (if I durst open my Mouth so wide) of *ABSOLUTE NECESSITY* too. *Let but the Laws be vigorously put in Execution, and the great Work is done.* We shall not need to declaim upon the *Probable Inconveniences* that will arise from a longer Sufferance of *This License*: But we shall in good time shew the *Approaches* they have already made, toward the *Government*; and that the *Non-Conformists* make as good use of the *Papists*, *One way*, as the *Papists* do of the *Non-Conformists*, Another.

THE *Encrease* of the *Schism* is the True measure of the *Churches Detriment*; for the *One Looses* just as much as the *Other Gets*. But the greatest mischief of all is the Dissolution of *Order*; For it is not only the *Double Losse* and *Disadvantage* of so many *Friends*, *degenerated* into so many

*Enemies*; but the *Loosening* of the *Band* makes all fly to *pieces*; And turns That *Community* into a *Multitude*, which, ere while, was a *Government*. And *This Dissolution* does highly gratify our *Adversaryes*, on *Both hands*; for Once out of Discipline, we are as bad as out of *Protection*: and in the Condition of a routed *Army*, when *Twenty men* in *Good Order* Value a *Thousand Fugitives*; For *Our Strength*, as well as Our *Reputation* leaves us with our *Union*; and the *Bulwark* of the *Reformation* is left *naked*, and without either *Honour*, or *Defence*. If This should come to be the Case, what can we expect, but either to be at the *Mercy* of a *Forreigner*, or for want of a *Common Enemy* to become a *Prey* to *one another*? It is as natural, This, (though we know it upon *Experiment* too) as it is for *one Grain of Sand* to fall from *Another*, for want of a *Morter*, or *Ciment* to bind them *together*: Or as it is for poynt blank *Contradictions* to *Crosse one Another*. And when the day of Controversy comes, what will all the *Fractions* of *Dissenting Protestants* signify, more, then so many *Loose Atoms* that will need a *more miraculous Concourse* of *Accidents* then ever the Philosopher dreamt of, to Jumble them into a *Body*. I will not deny but that they may so far *Unite* as to make head against a *Common Danger*; but they must live then like *Salamenders*, allways in the fire; as being by their very *Principles* in a perpetual State of *War*; *Impatient* of *one another*, and consequently *Incapable* of any *Political Establishment*. He that thinks otherwise needs only look behind him to be convinc'd; where he will finde, that thorough all the late Turns and Changes of State, the Prevailing Party did still set up for it self, to the Exclusion of all Others: Endeavouring to *Erect* a *New Government*, by *Order*, and *Restraint*, out of the *Ruines* of the *Old one*, which they had *destroy'd* by *Liberty*, and *Confusion*. How wretched now is the Condition of those people who by dividing themselves, (upon meer *Capricio's*) from *Regular Societys*, do

do in effect, cut themselves off from their Claim to the Ordinary Comforts of *Providence*, and *Nature*; turning *Peace it self* into a Curse, which to all men in their Right Wits is undoubtedly the greatest of *Blessings*..

AFTER a *long*, and I hope not (altogether) an *Impertinent Preface*, I shall now draw neer to my *Text*. The *Kings Witnesses* have given Evidence of a *Popish Conspiracy*; and not only of a *Conspiracy* carry'd on among *Themselves*, but of a *Practice* also upon the *Schismatiques*, by casting of *Scruples* into their Heads; by Instilling *dangerous Positions*: by *Preaching*, in fine, & *Catechising* among them in *Disguises*; to Embroil the *Government*. Now let the World bear me Witness that I have nothing at all to do with the *Original Plot*; or the *Priests* Artifices of *Moulding*, and *Cajolling* the *Dissenters* any further then in a resignation to *Truth* and *Authority*: My purpose being only to set forth the *Emprovements* that have been made, under the *Cover* of *One Plot*, toward the *Advancing* of *Another*. I shall Date This my *Narrative* from the *Transmigration* of the *Conspiracy*; and so carry it on through all the *steps* of its *Progression*; as the *Manner* of *Representing* matters, the *Probable Intent*, and *Effect* of That way of Proceeding; The *Translating* of a *Popular Odium*, from the *Papists*, to the *Government*, and so mounting by degrees from a *Zeal* against *Popery*, to a *Sedition* against the *State*.

IT is no Lessening of This Execrable *Plot*, to say that *Subjects* ought dutyfully to *acquiesce* in the Resolutions of their *Superiours*: And that all Clamorous *Appeals* from the *Magistrate* to the *Multitude* are only so far pardonable, as the Abundance of *Good will* may help to excuse the want of *Moderation* and *Discretion*. So that a great part of those *Fierce* and *Unmannerly Transports* that have been employ'd upon This Unhappy Occasion, and without any regard, either to *Quality* or *Sex*, or, in truth, to the very *Foundations* of *Christian Charity*, might have been much

much better let alone; since they serve only to *enflame* the *Vulgar*, without any sort of *avail* to the Cause in *question*. It is no better, then either a Translating of the *Judicature* from the *King* and his *Courts of Justice* to the *Rabble*; or else a *Complaint* to the *People* brought in with a side-winde, against the *Government*; which are two dangerous Points; striking at his Majesties *Sovereignty* the *One* way, and at his *Reputation* the *Other*: And yet all This is Tolerable, if it goes off so; and without blowing up a *Passion* into a *Designe*. But we shall better understand the *Drift* of it by the *Sequele*. If it rests Here, it is only a *laudable Zeal Ill manag'd*: For it is not the *Cutting Strictures* of a *sharp Tongue* or a *Virulent Pen*, but the *Sober* and *Impassionate* Sentence of *Law*; that by *Prisons*, *Axes*, and *Gibbets*, *determines These Controversies*. In one word, let them vent their Indignation against the *Principles* and *Practices* of the Church of *Rome*, in what Terms they please, and make *Popery* as *Odious* as they can, provided that they do not encourage *Tumults*; and that they contain their *Passions* within the Bounds of *Truth* and *Justice*. If they once passe those Limits, *Knowingly*, and by *Consent*, 'tis no longer *Zeal*, but *Confederacy*.

This Caution of keeping so strictly to the Rules of *Truth*, and *Justice*, has a respect, First, to the *manner* of representing both *Persons*, and *Things*; and Secondly, to the matter of *Fact*. Now if to the *Intemperance* of *Words* there be added a *Malitious Aggravation* of *Circumstances*, with *Fiction*, and *Imposture* over and above; 'tis to be fear'd that all is not right at the bottom. I shall be here encounter'd with a *Reproof*, for being so *Tender*, forsooth, of the *Reputation* of the *Papists*; and yet any man that is not *Intoxicated* with *Popular Fumes*, or led *Hood-winkt* into a *False Conception* of things, must necessarily see, that my great Concernment is for the *Honour* and *Dignity* of *Christians*; It being our Duty, to proceed according to the measures of *Good Faith*, and *Justice*, even with the

the *worſt* of *Infidels*. But people you'l ſay may be *miſtaken*, and give *Credit* to *Falſe Reports*, without either *Malice* or *Deſigne*. This is Confeſt, and none of thoſe Errours ſhall be put to account. If you ask me, *To what End*? Or, *What's the Benefit* of Impoſing theſe *Flams* upon the *Nation*? It is eaſily Anſwer'd, *Firſt*, that the *Plying* of the *Multitude* perpetually with *Allarms*, and *Terrors*, does in a manner turn their very *Brains*, take away their *Judgements*; and render them fit *Inſtruments* for the *boldeſt*, and moſt *Unwarrantable Undertakings*. So ſoon as they are once touch't in the Crown with Theſe Conceipts: 'tis but Sadling their Noſes with a pair of *State-Spectacles*, and you may perſwade them upon *New-Market Heath* that they are Tumbling down *Dover Cliff*. *Secondly*, the very *Perſons* that ſo artificially make the People *Sick*, are to reap the Profit of the *Cure*; which is ſuch another kind of *Remedy* as if a man ſhould beat out his *Brains* for fear of the *Headach*. Briefly, they do firſt make the people *Mad*, and then by the Conſent of the *Madmen* they themſelves are made *Governours* of the *Bedlam*. But without any more Deſcanting upon the *Good* or the *Evill* the *Grounds* or *Conſequences* of Matters; we ſhall now deliver ſome few Inſtances to our preſent purpoſe.

AT the time when Mr. *Powell* the Merchant was ſo long miſſing, what a Rabble of Formal Relations went about then, of his being *Trepann'd* a *Shipboard*, in what *Company*; what *Mony* in his Pocket; what *Forebodings* of his *Fate*: and all terminating in a peremptory Concluſion that he was *Murther'd* by the *Papiſts*; and not ſo few as five and Twenty or Thirty Pamphlets Trumpetting theſe Tidings all over the Kingdom. And yet not one Syllable of Truth in't at laſt.

What a Noiſe was there about Sir *Harry Titchbourn's* Houſe: Even to the very Catalogue of the Arms that were

were There taken: as 166. *Muskets*, 54. Case of *Pistols*, 37. *Saddles*, 47. *Daggers*, 2. Barrells of *Bullets*, 3. Bundles of *Match*; *Letters* sent *expresse* to Certify the Truth of the Story; and Copies of them dispersed presently at St. *Albans*, and elsewhere, without any Colour in the World for the Report. And so for the *Herse* full of *Arms* that was Intercepted at *Banbury*, the *Hampers* of *Fire balls* that were found in the *Savoy*, and *Somersethouse*; which were only certain *Rockets*, *Serpents*, and other *Artificiall Fire-works* which Mr. *Choqueux* had publiquely prepar'd for the Entertainment of a Solemn Festival: And yet all these *Shams* were blown up and down the Kingdom, by *News-letters* and *Printed Libells*, with as much Confidence as if they had been *Articles of Faith*; and no doubt of it, but many Thousands of his Majesties good Subjects believe them to This day, for want of being better enformed. What a Bustle there was about Mr. *Langhorns* being Bury'd in the *Temple*, and what *Remarks* upon the *Government* for shewing That Countenance to *Papists*? And upon the persons also that Assisted at That Funeral; when all This while, there was no more in the Case then only the Body of a Gentleman that dy'd in *Holburn*, and was There Interr'd, upon the night to the day of Mr. *Langhorns Execution*.

THE History of *Bedingfields* being privately Convey'd out of the *Gate house*, and a *Dead Body* left in his *place*, past so *Current*, that Sir *William Waller himself* (tho' he perhaps could smell a *Jesuit* as far as *another body*) took a long Journy into the *North* upon't, to catch *the wrong Bedingfield*. The Circumstances of that Adventure would be too Comicall for This place. We could tell you the Conduct of the whole Stratagem, and what names here at *London* went into the *Black Book* for not *believing* it. A man would really blesse himself to see the *Romances*, the *Glosses*, and the *Scurrilous Buffooneries* that were published by the *Rebald Scriblers* here about the Town, upon This Subject. But

BUT then, the landing of *Forty Thousand French* upon the Ile of *Purbeck*, shook the very Foundations of the Earth: The Factions drew presently into *Cabals*, upon the Tidings of it, with Horrible and Contumelious Reflections upon Those in Authority, as Parties to the Conspiracy. At *Coventry* they brake up the *Market* upon the News on't; and the Common people Immediately divided into Knots, and Consultations; some of them coming very Fayrly to This Resolution, that *there was no way but cutting the* Papists Throats, *to hinder them from* Joyning. But This Advice was soon Contradicted, and so the Mischief went no farther: Who knows what This Invention might have produc'd, if the Credit of it had continued but four and twenty Hours longer?

THE most Formidable Story of All, is the *Conspiracy* of the *Prentices:* and there was such Work made with *Capt. Tom*, as if the *Grand Seignior* had been powring down *Highgate Hill* with a hundred and fifty thousand men at's heels. There were so many *Thousands* of them upon the *List* by *Tale* and most of them *Papists* too; An account of what *Contributions* to the *Charge*, (alas!) of a *Three-penny* or *Groat-Clubb*; whose *Throats* were to be Cut; and through what *Constables Teritoryes* they were to take their *March*; and This *Scandal* upon the Body of this *Loyal*, and *Honourable City*, exposed in *Ballads* and *Libells* by every rascally *Pamphletier*. And what was all This mighty matter at last, but a parcell of good Jolly Ladds that had been busy at the burning of the *Pope*, and prevail'd upon to set their hands to the *Petition* that was then afoot? These Blades, finding that the Petition had given Offence, propounded the doing something on the Other Side too, that might shew they were neither *Fanatiques*, nor *Papists*; and so they gave publique Notice in *Thompsons Intelligence* of *their* Intentions upon the *Anniversary* of his Majestys *Restauration* to burn the *Rump*. The First time perhaps that ever a Conspiracy against

the Government was notified in a *News-Book*. I shall now shew you in an Instance or two, how bold they make with the *Kings Wittnesses*, as well as with the *rest* of his Majestys Subjects; and what *Slurs* they put upon the World (the *Citizens* of *London* Especially) under the *Countenance* of the *Plot*, and *Authority* of the *Kings Evidence*.

THERE'S a *Pamphlet* entitled, *A Narrative of unheard of* Popish Cruelties *toward* Protestants *beyond Seas*: *Or a New Account of the Bloody* Spanish Inquisition, *Published as a* Caveat *to* Protestants, by Mr. *Dugdale*. Printed for, *&c.*

THIS *New Account* (as I am credibly Inform'd) is only an *Old thing Reprinted*; The Subject Suited to the Humour of the present Season, and *Mr. Dugdale* upon the *Title-Page* exhibited as the *Authour* of it, and *Rie. Dugdale* Subscribed to the *Dedication*. This was the *Second Slur* that past the *Presse* under That name. The *First Impression* went off Clear with Mr. *Richard Dugdale* in the *Title page*, as the Composition of *Mr. Dugdale* the *Witnesse*; but the *Bookfellers* finding the businesse to be *Smoakt*, the *Wittnesses* name being taken notice of to be *Stephen*, and not *Richard*, he very prudently left out the *Christen name* in the *Second Impression*, and made it only *Mr. Dugdale*, and so it went for the *Witnesses* again. His work being only to find out a *Witnesses Namesake*, by great good Fortune he pitcht upon an *Alehouse-keeper* in *Southwark* of *That Name*, to carry off his Project; and the man (as I am told) is a very Honest man. Now here are *Three Abuses* fobb'd upon us at *once*, *First*, an *Old Book* for a *New one*; *Secondly*, one that knows *nothing* of the matter in *question*, under the Semblance of one of the *Kings Wittnesses*. And *Thirdly* the Counterfeit of a *False Authour*. But the most remarkable piece of all is yet to come.

IT

IT was my Hap, some three or four Months since, to cast my Eye upon a Book, Entitled, *A Narrative and Impartial Discovery of the Horrid Popish Plot : carry'd on for the Burning and Destroying of the Cities of* London *and* Westminster, *with their Suburbs*, &c. And *Dedicated to the Surviving Citizens of* London *ruin'd by Fire*, &c. I came to This Pamphlet with Expectation of some Notable Discovery ; especially finding a Promise in the Title page of *Depositions*, and *Informations* NEVER BEFORE PRINTED : But when upon the Perusal, I found the *Narrative part* of it to be taken, *Verbatim* almost, out of two or three *old Seditious Libells* against the *Government*, that were printed by Stealth, some *ten* or *a dozen years agoe*, (before Mr. *Bedloes* time of Action) and scatter'd up and down in most of the Publique Houses upon the great Roads of *England*, by *half a score* sometimes in a *place*, according to the Ordinary Method of the Faction in such Cases ; I made a strict Enquiry into the matter, and this was the business.

There was a *Consult* of *three or four Booksellers* over a bottle of Wine, what *Subject* a man might venture upon at That time, for a *Selling Copy* : One of the Company was of Opinion that a Book of the *Fires* would make *a Smart Touch* ; and so they all agreed upon't ; and propounded to get some of the *Kings Witnesses hands* to't ; Naming first *one*, and then *another*, they came at length to a Resolution ; and pitch't upon *Trap ad Crucem*, and *The History of the Fires* ; as two books that would afford matter enough, if they could but get them put into a Method, and have a Certain persons hand to the Owning of them. Hereupon they apply'd themselves to One to draw up the Story ; and so it went to the *Press* under his hand, all but what was *Printed Copy* ; and he made *Several Alterations* too in the *Epistle*, out of his own head, after it was *composed* at the *Presse*. So that here are a *Couple* of *Old Libells* turn'd into a *New Narrative*, and *the*

*Kings Magistrates*, and *Officers defam'd afresh*, and the menage of *This Scandal* committed to the hand of a *Common Calumniator*. As to what Concerns Mr. *Bedloes Evidence* I have nothing to Say; nor to the *Papists* burning the City; nor to any one poynt in the Pamphlet which *Mr. Bedloe* can pretend to Speak to upon Knowledge; but This I shall Say; that there are *Several Groundless* and *dangerous Passages* in it; and that the most *Inflaming* and *Seditious* of them are only *Libels* of *Ancient Date*, *Reprinted*; That it was a *Contrivance* Set afoot by *Booksellers* for *Profit*, drawn up according to their *Order* and *Direction*, and an *Abuse* in the very *Original Intendment*: The *Citizens* and the *Kings Witnesses* being only propounded as a *Property* toward the gaining of it some *Reputation*.

IT is Sufficiently known, with what *Greedinesse* These, and a Thousand other *Impostures*, and *Aggravations* have been Swallow'd by the Common people; and made use of as Instances to Illustrate and Confirm the Plot. But What? you'l Say, There's a *Mourneval* of *Booksellers* upon a Tryal of Skill in their Own Trade: *One Knave Invents* a Story, and a *Thousand Fools Believe* it. How does all This amount to the Proof of a *Faction*? Why truly; tho' it looks very Suspiciously, considering *Who* they are that *Advance* and *encourage*, and the *Interest* that is *promoted* by these *Mistakes*: Considering also with what *Violence*, and *Industry* they are carry'd on, and that the Cry too run all one way: I shall yet content my self with a *Probable Surmise* that there may be a *Factious Intent*; as if I should See a man riding Post from *Barnet* towards *London*, I would lay ten to One that This man is going for *London*; and yet 'tis not Impossible neither but he may take up by the way: if I finde afterward that he went *thorough*, I should think it a hundred to one that his purpose was for *London*, when he *First* Set out: This is the very Case. *These Practices* are the *High way* to *Sedition*, and 'tis Ten to One that they'l come up to't at last:

which

which if they do 'tis a Hundred to One that they *Design'd* it, from the Beginning.

IT is a very Ill Sign too, the *Fierceneſſe* of the *Abettors* of theſe *Shameleſſe*, and *Ridiculous Forgerys* againſt any man that has not Faith enough to believe that *the Moon is made of Green Cheeſe*: And This they call a *Ridiculing* of the *Plot*; and *making Sport* with *Sentences* of *Parliament*, and *Judicial Proceedings*. I would fain ſee where either the *King*, the *Parliament*, or any *Court of Juſtice* has *verify'd* any Single poynt that I have *reflected* upon: And I deſy the Devil himſelf, in any of his Servants, to Say wherein I have not pay'd all *due Reſpects*, as well to the *Perſons* of the *Kings Witneſſes*, as to their *Evidence*. What *Diminution* is it to *Dr. Oates* his *Narrative*, to ſay that the *Contrivances* of the *Meretuary Book-ſellers*, and *Scriblers* herein mentioned are *Shams*. What *Contradiction* or *Abatement* in it to the *Truth*, or *Credit* of the *Popiſh Plot*, to ſhew that there is a *Schiſmatical Plot* afoot too; and that *One* moves under the Countenance of *Another*: Now to *Pretend* a *Plot*, where there is *None*, is next door to the *Denyal* of it where it *Is*. Shall any man Argue that the *Diſparagement* of a *Juggle*, *weakens* a *Truth*? *Sr. Edmondbury Godfrey* was never the Leſs *Murther'd*, becauſe *Mr. Powel eſcaped*. Shall any man Infer That there were *no black Bills* Provided, becauſe there were no Arms found in *Sr Henry Titchburns* houſe? Or becauſe the *Prentices* were but in *Jeaſt*, that therefore the *Bloudy Pilgrims* were not in *Earneſt*: The *Juſtification* of *Mr. Choqueux's Fireworks* has no effect at all upon the *Tewxbury muſtard-Balls*. What is my Affirming that *Langhorn* was *not Bury'd* in the *Temple*, to the Buſineſs of *Valladolid*, or *Salamanca*? The *Herſe* of *Arms* was a *Flam*. And what Then? muſt the *Evidence* therefore of the *Piſtol* and the *Dagger* be one *too*? And I would fain know what Relation *Bedingfields* eſcape out of the *Gatehouſe*, (after he was Dead) has to the *Conſult* at the *White horſe Tavern* in the *Strand*.

As.

As to the *Popish Plot* that is Sworn by the *Kings Witnesses*, I lay my *Faith* at their Feet, without any further *Enquiry*, or *Dispute*. But where I finde Rank and Palpable *Falsboods* and *Contrivances* Imposed upon the World for Certain *Truths*, and nothing but *Passion* and *Confidence* to Support them; I reckon my Self bound in Duty (so far as in me lyes) to lay open the Abuse. For this way of *Bruiting* up a *Plot* where there is *none*, is a Design of a most dangerous Consequence, and a Snare to all Honest men. It is a kinde of *Experiment* upon the Humour of the Multitude, to try what they will Bear, and whether they be yet mad enough or not, to swallow *Impostures* without *examining*. If they finde the People in Tune for their Purpose, and Charm'd into such an aw, that at the very *name* of a *Plot* they shall *Dare* like *Larks* under the dread, even of a *Painted Hobby*; There's the *Foundation* of a *Civill War*, and an *Arbitrary Power* layd allready. They shall make what *Plots*, and what *Plotters* they please; and every man that stands in their way, shall be a *Papist* or a *Traytor*, according as they think fit to represent him to the Rabble. If this be the fruit of being *given over to believe Lyes*, we have great reason sure to take all possible Care that we be not *deluded*, and to distinguish betwixt the voyce of *Authority*, and That of *Rumour*. The Common way of *Reply* upon *This Topique* is to break out into *Exclamations*, and to hit a man in the Teeth with the *Shame* of the *Meale-Tub*, and Twenty Such Fooleries; as if there were no more in the business then a *Malitious Imagination*; and only a more colourable Invention to *discredit* a *Real Plot*, under *pretence* of a *Counterfeit*, and casting a Mist before the Peoples Eyes, that they should not know one from t'other. My Answer is Short; that we have the matter of *Fact* in proof Here before us: That the *True Plot* and the *Counterfeit* are in such manner *Separated*, that the One is not at all in *dispute*, and the other is *Condemn'd*. And we shall now shew you what

what uſe is made by a Faction under the *Diſguiſe* of *proſecuting Papiſts*, to *Defame*, and to *Deſtroy* ſeveral of his Majeſtys *Loyall Subjects* and *Church of England Proteſtants*. For let a mans *Actions*, his *Converſation*, his *Religion* be what they will, 'tis but beſmearing him with the Scandal of being *Popiſhly-Affected*, and his Work is done. There is a kinde of *Spell* in the Word *Popery*. It tranſforms a *Man* into a *Beaſt*: And like the *Great Medicine*, it turns whatever it touches into *Plot*. If a man will not believe it to be *Chriſtmaſſe* at *Midſummer*, he's in the *Plot*; If he loves his *Church*, his *Prince*, and his *Country*, and ſtands for a *Burgeſſe* or a *Common Councell-man*, 'tis but Saying that he's *Popiſhly affected*, and he becomes preſently as an *Heathen* or a *Publican*. If he refuſes to *Aſſociate*, or *Petition*, he ſhall be *Markt*; and well too if he ſcape So; For we have gotten a Trick, when men will not do as we would have them, of laying them up for *Treaſon*; (no matter for *Evidence*) and when we have put them out of Reach of a *Habeas Corpus*, 'tis but ſhewing them a Fayr payr of Heels our Selves, and leaving Them to Struggle with the Law. As for Example.

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ON the 6th of *April* laſt, about 7. in the Morning, *Major Ovington* and *Mr. Thomas King* were taken out of their Beds and Charged with *High Treaſon*; their Boxes and Papers Rifled, and Themſelves Examin'd apart; but nothing of Ill appeared againſt them. The *Magiſtrate* began with the *Major*; and when he had try'd both by fair means and foul, to get him to ſign ſuch Papers and Informations as he himſelf had ready drawn; finding that he would not be wrought upon, he left the *Major*, and went to *Mr. King*, telling him how ſorry he was to ſee him drawn into ſuch a horrid Buſineſs: How that his Majeſty had the matter before him, and that there were 6. or 7. Wittneſſes that appear'd againſt him. *Mr. King*,

in

in great Admiration, askt what this mighty buſineſſe might be: but he went back to the *Major*, without giving any Reply: and after a little while return'd to *Mr. King*. Major Ovington (Says he) *has dealt Generouſly with me, and he ſhall fare the better for't; for I do not deſire the Deſtruction of any man:* But ſtill profeſſing more kindneſſe to *Mr. King*, for his Fathers Sake, and looking upon Him as a Perſon only drawn in. So he preſt *Mr. King* to a Confeſſion, and told him, if he would but Subſcribe Such a Paper as he would draw up, and knew to be True, he would not Commit him, and it ſhould be the better for him. *Mr. King* askt him what he would be at, and told him that if the *Major* had charg'd him with any Ill thing toward the *King*, or the *Government*, he was an Unworthy man. Whereupon he went his way, and Committed the *Major* to the *Gate-houſe*.

The *Magiſtrate* having left Mr. *King* at his own Houſe, came back to him immediatly, and told him, *'tis well* Mr. *King* (ſays he) *that you are faln into my hands; for if I pleaſe, there's but a ſtep betwixt You and Death; I am loth to Commit you, becauſe I know it will be your Ruine; every thing being made out ſo clear againſt you*; Mr. *King* ſtill urging to know what all This meant, the *Magiſtrate* went to the further end of the room, and fell to writing; Mr. *King*, being deſirous to ſee what he wrote; He held the Paper in his hand and ask'd him if he did not know of a Deſign to Seize the *Tower*, and reſcue the *Lords*; and ſeverall other lewd Things. To which Mr. *King* reply'd, that it was all *Villany*. The *Magiſtrate* gave Mr. *King* a Bottle of *Syder*, and Treated him with an Appearance of much kindneſſe. After a while, he took Mr. *King* in his Arms; telling him he ſaw he was reſolv'd upon his Own Ruine. Mr. *King* deſir'd that he might apply himſelf to the *Secretaries of State* to be *Examined* by *Them*; which the Magiſtrate took Ill, pretending that his Majeſty had left the bus'neſſe to Him. He was trying a long time to prevail

prevail upon Mr. *King* to ſwear againſt *Major Ovington*; but not ſucceeding, he threaten'd to lay him in Irons; and ſo Committed him to the *Gate-houſe*, with Order to the Keeper, that the Gentlemen ſhould not come together, nor receive any Meſſage, without having taken any Examination upon Oath, before his Commitment; neither after it, was there one word of Treaſon Sworn againſt him. He was Committed betwixt Twelve and One upon the 6th, and the *Depoſition* againſt him was taken the day after he was Committed, at the *Rheniſh-wine houſe* in *Channell Row*, Threatning alſo to lay the Witneſſe, in *Irons*, if he would not Depoſe what he the Magiſtrate had drawn up. The Coppy of the *Mittimus* follows.

**WHEREAS Oath hath been made before Me, that the Perſon I herewith ſend in Cuſtody to you** (Mr. Thomas King) **hath Treaſonably contrived a Rebellion, and falſly Deſigned the accuſing ſeverall of his Majeſties Loyal Peers and Subjects of the ſaid Treaſon. Theſe are therefore to Will and require you in his Majeſties Name to receive and Keep the Body of the ſaid** Thomas King **in ſafe Cuſtody. untill he ſhall be Diſcharged by due Courſe of Law.** Given under my Hand and Seal the 6th Day of *April*. 1680.

THESE Gentlemen being brought into the Court by their *Habeas Corpus* the next Term, the prosecution was lookt upon to be *Illegal*, and *Ridiculous*, to the highest Degree; there appearing no colour from the *Information*, or *Examination*, either for the *matter* Charg'd upon them, or so much as the bare *Commitment*; Only it was obsery'd, that beside the *Injustice* of a *Commitment* without *Evidence*, the Crime was laid *Treason*, on purpose that they might not be bail'd in the *Vacation*.

THIS I hope will not be deny'd to have been a *Sham-Plot*; and promoted by a *Faction* too: For it was the work of Twenty Libells to defend the Proceeding: The Persons *accused* are Gentlemen of approved *Loyalty*, Fair and Honourable *Conversation*, and men zealously affected to the Church of *England*. There was an attempt made by the same Magistrate at the same time upon another Gentleman in the same House, (a *Cavalier* of unquestionable *Loyalty* and *Honour*) and upon a like pretence too; But That *Trepan* was let fall again.

HERE'S the Fruit of taking up *Plots* upon *Trust*; and running Headlong from the *Fear*, nay, from the very *Name* of *Popery*, into the *Thing it self*. Let any man shew me a more *Imperious Tyranny*, if he can, or a more *Implicite Faith*; then for men to be worse then *Spirited* away thus, *contrary* to the *Law*, and *without Remedy*; and and run down for *Criminals* by a *Popular Consent*, without understanding one Syllable of the matter in *question*. These *Practices* and *Excesses* are the Subject of my *Narrative*; and so far from misrepresenting the *Popish Plot*, that there is not any sort of Correspondence, in This Case, betwixt the *One*, and the *Other*. And I defy any man to shew, whereever I let fall so much as One word of the *Popish Plot*, but with a modest and due Respect to the Government. Neither, in effect, am I become the Mark of every Paultry Libeller, for reflecting upon the *Reality* of the *One Plot*; but for the exposing the *Juggle* of

of the *Other*. And it is Time certainly for every man to look about him, when our *Lives*, *Liberties*, and *Fortunes* lye all at *mercy*; and every Honest man expos'd to the Animosities of *Faction*, and *Revenge*: For we are not judg'd by what we *are* in Our *Selves*, in Our *Conversations*, and *Opinions*; but by what we are *said* to be. What becomes of *Magna Charta*, at This rate, and the *Priviledges* of an *English mans Birth right*? If men shall be hurry'd into *Jayls* without *Evidence*, because they will not Subscribe either *Confessions*, or *Accusations*, touching matters which they know nothing of, and *Witnesses* Tamper'd afterward by *Menaces*, for *Proofs ex post Facto*, to colour such *Illegal Commitments*? We have had but too much of This allready; and no body knows whose Turn it may be next: Since what was the Case of these Gentlemen, may be any mans.

DOES it not behove us, now, to distinguish betwixt *Reason*, and *Clamour*; betwixt *Truth*, and *Calumny*, betwixt the Acts of *Authority*, and the License of *Tumults*; betwixt the *Just* and *Temperate Deliberations* and *Resolutions* of *Government*, and the *violent Heats* and *Partialitys* of the *Common-people*? How come the *Multitude* to be *Judges* of *Plots*, and *Popery*, more than of *Other Crimes* and *Misdemeanours*? For That's the *Tribunal* of the *Faction*, where every man is to be made a *Traytor*, or a *Papist*, as They think meet. And it is not enough neither to be fairly acquitted upon a *Tryal* before a *Court of Justice*; for the *Bench* and the *Jury* are presently arraign'd upon't by an *Appeal* to the *Rabble*.

It is a great poynt gain'd, where a *Faction* has gotten so much the Command of the *People*, as to make them *believe* every thing that They *Say*, and *approve* of every thing that they *do*. There is a *Plot* no doubt on't; but *That Plot* does not yet create *Another Plot*, where there is *no Plot at all*. The *Popish Plot* has *Bounds*, and *Limits*; the *Kings Wittnesses* tell us *what* it *is*, and *where*

it *lyes*; and we have had nothing *New* of *That Plot*, now a good while. But this *Imaginary Plot*, is a *Plot* upon a *Perpetual Plot*, and to keep the Nation So long in *Awe* of the *Popish Plot*, till the *Faction* may execute *Another Plot* of their *Own*. And what is that *Other Plot* of their *Own*, but, First, to break in upon the *Ministers* and *Friends* of the *Government*; and Secondly, to undermine the very *Foundations* of it. This is no more *Sayd*, then what their *Practices* make *good*, and the *Series* of the *Design* hangs as Naturally, one piece to Another, as if they were but so many *Links* of the Same *Chain*.

As to what Concerns the Capital Plot, in the proceedings upon the Conspirators, and the Subsequent Severityes upon the Papists; all This is an Act of the Government. But the *Superfatation* of *Other Plots*, which neither the *State*, nor the *Witnesses* take any notice of: *Plots* that have no *Affinity* or *Connexion* with the *Principal*; nor, in Truth, any *Existency* in *Nature*, other then in the *Forge* of a *Phanstical*, and *Republican* Brain. *These Plots* are not so *Sacred*, I hope, but a body may ask, Whence they *Come*, and Whither they *Go*, without any Offence, either to *Authority* or *Good manners*. Nay, what if a man should examine them, by what Commission it is, that they change their *Stile*, and render *Papists*, in the *Original*, into *Popishly Affected*, in the *Translation*? How it comes, of a *Down right Popish-Plot*, to be a *Popishly Affected-Plot*? This stretch puts the *Church-of-England Men* into a worse Estate then the very *Papists*. For there are certain *Known* and *Political Conditions*, whereupon a *Papist* may come *off*, by satisfying the *Law*; But *Popishly Affected* is such a *Drag Net*, it sweeps All. In Other Cases, there must be *Probata*, as well as *Allegata*; but Here, the simple *Allegation* does a mans bus'ness; for how is it possible for any man to prove a *Negative*, and a *Thought*, which he must do, to discharge himself of being *Popishly affected*?

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The Common People take *Popishly Affected* I know not for one of the Devlishest things that can be sayd of a man; especially as it is dreſt up with *Plots*, *Massacres*, *Conflagrations*, &c. to make it the more Terrible. And therefore whensoever the Faction has a minde to expose any man to the Outrages of the *Rabble*, they are pleas'd to give him the Honour of *This Character*; which presently raises the Country upon him, as if he were a *Woolf*, or a *Common Enemy*. Now This Brand of *Popishly Affected* is not Set upon a man for any Correspondency of Dangerous or Erroneous *Principles* that he has with the Church of *Rome*; but they make use of it as a *Discriminating Mark* betwixt *themselves* and *other men*. He that will not *believe* all the *Fooleries* They tell him, nor *joyn* in all the *Iniquityes* that they propound to him: He that will not *Contribute*, *Swear*, *Petition*, *Vote*, *Associate*, as They would have him, That man comes Immediately to be *Popishly Affected*. He that speaks Reverently of the *Dignity*, or the *Persons* of *Bishops*; the *Orthodox Clergy*, the Ministers of *State* and *Justice*; the Service-book, the *Rites* and *Appointments* of the *Church* in opposition to the *Assemblyes-Directory*, with the Practices of their *Slovenly* and *Licentious Conventicles*; That man's *Popishly Affected*. To Preach up *Obedience* to *Civil Magistrates*; To cry down *Schism*; To chuse a *Good Fryday* rather, or an *Ashwednesday*, for a *Fast*, then a *Whitson-Tuesday*; to lay more stresse upon the Oaths of *Allegiance* and *Supremacy*, then the *Solemn League* and *Covenant*; To Advance the *King* above the *Two Houses*; To deny the *Sovereignty* of the *People*; and to maintain that God is the God of *Order*, and not of *Confusion*, All This is to be *Popishly Affected*.

But let us now Consider how This Calumny comes to be taken up; What's the *Drift*, and (if This work goes on) what will Probably be the *Issue* of it.

It may be observed, that so long as we were upon the Scent of *Priests* and *Jesuits*; the *Plot* in *motion*; and that every

every day presented *Fresh Game* of *Papists*, and *Conspiracyes*: So long, I Say the *Faction* joyn'd with the *Government* in a *Common Care*, for the Peace and *Safety* of the *Publique*: Only with This Difference; that whereas the *Magistrate* proceeded to the Necessary Punishment of *Offenders*, according to the *Gentle*, and *Impartial Methods* of *Law* and *Justice*: and with *Humanity* and *Compassion* for their *Persons* and *Errours*, the *Faction*, on the Other hand, precipitated all things with *Violence*, and *Clamour*. Not contenting themselves with the bare Oblation of so much *Blood*, for the Satisfaction of *Publique Justice*, unlesse they turn'd the *Tragedy* into a *Farce* too, and made *Sport* with the *Calamityes* of the *Miserable*. And what was All This *Vehemence* and *Pudder*, but to Elevate the Opinion of their *Zeal* (in proportion to the *Noyse* they made) above all others, and Tacitly to reproach the *Government* for their *Candour*, and *Moderation*.

Nor did they keep themselves within the Bounds of *Inferences*, and *Tacit Implications*, long neither; But so Soon as ever any man came off, whether through the *Insufficiency* of *Proofs*, or the *Incompetency* of *Witnesses*, they flew open mouth'd in the face of the *Bench* and *Jury*: and in so bold a manner too, as if the *Tribunal* were only to *Hear* the Cause, the *Jury* to stand with their fingers in their mouths, and the *Pit* to *Decide* it? What is become of the *Manhood*, and *Generosity* of the *English Nation*; That we are fal'n into This Insatiate Thirst of *Blood*? Where's our Respect to our *Superiours*; while we thus Arraign *Authority*? Where to our *Selves*, in the Seditious Usurpation of a Right that does not belong to us; and in Contradiction to the Duties of *Allegeance*, and *Common Prudence*? Where to our *Fellow-Subjects*; in our Needlesse, and Unmannerly Importunities, for more Rigour then the very Letter of the Law will bear? Is This *doing as we would be done by*? Or is it doing either as we *Have been done by*? But I shall now come to

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the *Transition* of the *One* Plot into the *Other*, and the turning of *Papists* into *Popishly-affected*; wherein I must distinguish betwixt the *Words* and *Intent* of *Authority*, and the Unwarrantable *Application* and *Construction* of the *Faction*.

In all Changes of State the Pillars must first be remov'd, before the Frame of the Government can be dissolv'd. And therefore 'tis discreetly done, for a Faction to begin with *Persons*, ere they broch their *Opinions*; For it would be a great Over-sight to pick a quarrel with the *Administration*, and at the same time to be laying of New *Foundations*. It is also another point of Skill, the Running of People down (as I find it in a *Coffee house Author*) without the Assistance of the *Penal Statutes*, or the Formality of trying men by their *Peers*. And nothing does That Exploit more effectually, then the Device of *Popishly Affected*. It is a snare, that all the Precaution in the world cannot avoid; and a most Insensible slip from *Religion*, to *Sedition*; as we find in the Progress of our present Distempers. For the business of *Popery* is now in a great measure laid aside; and the *Dissenters* and *Republicans* at work as hard as they can drive; the *One* to *undermine* the *Church*, and the *Other* the *Monarchy*; and joyntly engaged in a *Common Endeavour* and *Design* for the Ruine of *Both*. So that the *same Plot*, in *Effect*, is carry'd on still, but in *Other Names*, and by *Other hands*. The *Original* Quarrel was to the *Papists*: *This* is to the *Popishly-affected*. The Church of *Rome was* struck at in the *One*, and the Church of *England is* struck at in the *Other*: And what the *Jesuits began*, the *Schismatiques* are now to *Finish*. Let no man question the Truth of This, unless he will First put out his Eyes for his Credit; or bring a Certificate from the Colledge that he is *Non-Compos*, and does not know *Chalk* from *Cheese*. Provided allways, that These People prove not at last to be Dr. *Oates's Jesuits* in the shape of *Schismatiques*; as I have:

have heard of some *Schismaticks* too in the shape of *Jesuits*. I shall be told that This is only a *Blind* to cover the *Popish Plot*; whereas in Truth that Pretext is only a *Blind*, to cover the *Other*; and all their shifts are but so much *Lime* thrown in the *People Eyes*, to *Blear*, and *Confound* them that they may not distinguish *Prelacy* and *Popery*, *Papists*, and *Church-Protestants*, the *One* from the *Other*.

AND another Trick they have got; which is, to run canting with their *Appeals* to the *King* and *Parliament*; as if the very *Suggestion* of *This Plot* were a *Contradiction* to the *Evidence* of the *Other*; and consequently to the *Authority*, *Justice*, and *Resolution* of his *Majesty* and the *Three Estates*. Are not our *Impostors* come now to a prodigious degree of *Boldness*, when they shall dare to Father such *Shams* as *These* upon the *Supreme Authority of the Nation*. But what's all This, to the old Story of Fathering *Murther*, *Sacriledge*, and *Rebellion* upon *God Himself*. 'Tis very True, that the King and Parliament have agreed upon't, and declar'd themselves fully satisfy'd that there is a Damnable *Popish Plot*, but not one word of a *Popish-Affected Plot*; neither do I finde that our *Refiners*, and *Improvers* of *Mischief* have any Commission for the extending of the *Popish Plot* so far; and themselves at last to be the *Judges* of That *Popish Affection*: Much lesse for the turning of That *Reproach* upon the Church of *England*, which was intended only against the *Opinions*, and *Practices* of the Church of *Rome*. It will be sayd that they do not blast the *Church* of *England*, but here and there a *Rotten member* of it, that carrys on the *Popish Interest* under *That masque*? 'Tis very right, that, take them in the good Humour, and they will yet allow *Two Bishops* of the Twenty six to be *Protestants*; And *Four Protestant Divines* in the City of *London*; So that here's no Formal Attaque made as yet upon the *Body* of the Church; Only *Dr. Owen*, *Mr. Baxter*, and two or three more of them ly Pelting at the *Out-works*, while the

*Lay-*

*Lay-Brothers* are employ'd, some in *Mining*, others in *Drawing* here and there a Principal *Stone*, or *Timber* out of the *Building*; and every man, in his place, and station (according to the Covenant) contributing toward a *Total Ruine*: Only the work is now carry'd on by Other hands; or at least under Other Appearances. The *Plot* in *Substance* seems to be much the *Same*, saving only the Exchange of *Popery* for *Schisme*. We shall now briefly Touch upon the Methods by which these Ends are to be brought about.

BY This Invention of *Popishly Affected* they can Pick their Men, and cast out all that are not for their Turn; the *Word* being only made use of for a Distinction betwixt the *Adherents* to the *Church*, and the *Protestant Dissenters*. *Pray'e see* (says the Author of *Englands Great Interest*) *that you chuse* Sincere Protestants, *Men that do not play the* Protestants in Design; *and are indeed*, Disguised Papists; *ready to pull off their Masque when time serves.* [*When the* barefac'd Papist *cannot do it*, (says the *Instrument of Association*, Pag. 4.) *the* Protestant *in* Masquerade *shall*; *the Stratagem of This very day: And above all to be watch'd against.*] And in *an Account from Guild-Hall*, *they are called* Protestants *in* Masquerade, *in good time to be taken notice of, and receive the Reward due to their Merits.* [*To be* marked (says Another) *as the* worst of Papists, *and so dealt with in City and Country.*] Now for *Variety-Sake* they call them *Courtiers*, *Pensioners*, and the like; and the *Clergy* are Treated (as upon the late Election of Knights of the Shire at *Chelmsford* in *Essex* (in the stile of *Jesuitical*, *Dumb Doggs*; *Dark Lanthorns*; *Baals Priests*; *Damned Rogues*; *Jacks and Villains*; *The Black Guard*; *The Black Regiment of Hell*, &c. And a General Exception made (by the Writer of the *Seasonable Warning*) *to all men in* Office, Preferment, Salary, *or* Court-Employment. So that here's in a manner the one Half of the Kingdom (and the Legal Half too) as

much as in Them lyes ) excluded from a share in the Common-Interest of the Nation: with how bad *Aims* and *Intent*, let the World judge.

THE *Popish Plot* is Sworn by all the *Witnesses* to have been Level'd at the *Life* of his *Sacred Majesty*, the *Subversion* of the *Government*, and the *Destruction* of the *Protestant Religion*. Now Whosoever well considers the *manner* of *Proceedings*, together with the *Stile*, and *Doctrine* of the *Positions* that are now afoot, (though pretendedly upon Another Bottom) will finde many Passages that look Untowardly the Same way.

*First*, as to the *Life* of the *King*, and the *Direct Subversion* of the *Government*, the Faction is not advanc'd so far yet; for That's a Villany that must be Imposed upon the People, as a thing in such and such Cases to be *Lawful*, before there can be any Thought of putting it in *Practice*. And herein, Our *late Reformers* have outdone the *Jesuits Themselves*: For over and above the *Exposing* of a *Prince*, on the *One* side, for *Heresy*, and, on the *Other* side, for *not submitting to Christ on his Throne*; and equally on *Both sides* to the *Utmost Extremities*; we have got Here the start of them, in Erecting a Principle that makes the *Sovereign further Accountable* to the *People*, upon a point of *State*; as we shall presently make appear by severall Instances. Now if it be once laid down for a *Maxim*, that upon such or such Conditions, the *Subjects may* take away the *Life* of their *Prince* if they *will*; 'tis Damnable Odds that upon such a Supposition, some Reprobated wretch or other *will* do it if he *can*.

I shall begin with the Acute Authour of the *Weighty Considerations Consider'd*. I will hope (*says he*) Pag. 6. *there are very few in This Nation so Ill Instructed, that do not think it in the Power of the* People *to* DEPOSE *a Prince who really undertakes to Alienate his Kingdom, or to give it up into the Hands of Another Sovereign Power; or that really Aims the Destruction, or the Universal Calamity of his* People.

*People.* The Authour of the *Plea* to the *Dukes Anſwer* ſays that *when Kings themſelves be Ill ones, God not only* Approves *of their* Removal, *but even Himſelf does it.*

The *Political Catechiſm* places the *Government* in the *Two Houſes of Parliament.* The Late *Letter to a Perſon of Honour*, &c. ſays, there may be a *Self-Depoſition* of a *Prince actually Regnant.* And again, *The Weighty Conſiderations Conſider'd*, lodges the *Government* in the *Major Part.* And almoſt every Freſh Libeller ſpeaks to the ſame Purpoſe. Now do but once admit, that a King *May* Forfeit his *Royal Authority*, and you ſhall never fail of thoſe that will ſay, he *Has* don't; So long as there are men in the world that had rather *Govern*, then *Obey*: And the ſtreſs does not lye upon the *Quality* of the *Kings Actions* neither, but upon the *Conſtruction* that ſhall be made of them, by any Reprobated Band of *Conſpirators*, that ſhall preſume to *Cenſure* them. Whatſoever the Faction ſhall think fit to call *Miſ-Government*, muſt be ſo *Interpreted*, and *Reputed*; and to Them only muſt we repair, as to the Oracles of *Law*, and *Conſcience.* The *Safety* of the *King* and *Government*, our *Religion*, *Laws*, and *Freedoms*, are only, according to This Poſition, dependent upon the Humour of the *Multitude*: So that it is but Their bare *Saying*, that the *King* has *Forfeited his Crown*, the *Church* their *Privileges*, the *Nobility* their *Seſſion of Peerage*; the *Commons* their *Character of Repreſentation*; the *Merchants* their *Liberty of Trade*; the *Gentry*, and *Commonalty* their *Lives*, *Freedoms*, and *Eſtates*, and the work is done. This was the Courſe of all our late violent Changes of Government; and the *Poſitions* which are now every day recommended to the Nation toward the Playing of the ſame Game over again, were the *Groundwork* of all our *Late Miſeries* and *Confuſions.*

Now

Now as to the *Church*: Are not the *Dissenting Ministers* at work again *Tooth and Nayl* against the *Act for Uniformity*; and Preaching up a *Schism*, under the Colour of *Formalizing* upon *Scruples*? Do they not first *Instigate* the People (in Contempt of *Law*, and *Order*) to a *Separation*; and then furnish them with the best pretences they can, for their *Disobedience*? What will become of the *Protestant Religion*, when the *Restraint* of *Ecclesiastical Discipline* and *Jurisdiction* shall be taken away; and men left to *Themselves* to go *their own ways*, and chuse *their own Religions* at *Pleasure*? If This be not an attempt upon putting the Last branch of *the Popish Plot* in *Execution* by an *Extirpation* of the *Protestant Religion*; then the Church of *England*, (as it is legally establisht) must be confest, in Their Opinions, not to be *Protestant*: And consequently be call'd to an Account for *That supposed Defect*, as not being Comprehended within the Equity of their *Good Will* and *Protestion*.

I could multiply These Instances without end; but here's enough said to give Evidence of a *Pestilent Design*. But whether it be a *Design* of a *Popish Contrivance*, tho' set a foot by the *Fanatiques*; or purely a *Fanaticall Design*; I shall not Determine; but leave the *Animadversion* of it to the Consideration of *Authority*, and appeal to the most *Partial Reader* for the *Truth* on't; Concluding with This Observation: That there is great *Malice* as well as *Danger* in the *Project*: For Thotough all this *Audacious License* of *Libelling* the *King himself*, the *Privy-Councell*, the *Judges*, the *Jury*; &c. of Tearing the *Church* to *pieces*, and Treasonably undermining the very *Foundations* of the *Government*, by the Erecting of *Republican Maxims* wholly *Inconsistent* with, and utterly *destructive* of *This Imperiall Monarchy*: I do not finde yet so much as *One Dissenters Pen* engag'd in the *Vindication* of *His Majesty*, or the *Support* of the *Government*, to expiate for the Numberless Pamphlets they have Publish'd toward the *Scandal* and *Destruction* of both; Or in *Justification* of Themselves to the World, that they are as great *Enemies* to the *Substance* of the *Popish Plot* as they would be thought to be, and as great *Friends* to the *King* and *Government*.

*The End.*